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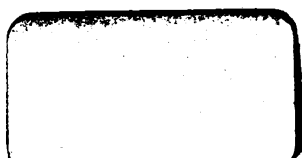


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ORACLES OF
THE OFFICE

JOHN B. LAWRENCE

Sph. resin. (S. resin.)



Lawrence
NBx



ORACLES OF
THE OFFICE

BY
JOHN B. LAWRENCE



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TAKE ME ALONG

One cannot be reading novels or short-stories all the time. Eyes tire, mind fags and demands respite or change.

At such times we may appreciate an idea or thought kindler, so we may shut the eyes and mull.

A big book will not fit the pocket and takes up too much room in the "grip." But the little booklet here offered the Public will fit the "grip," the pocket and the tired brain.

That it may prove a good fit, is the wish of the author.

"A Word to the Wise is Sufficient."

A Fellow-traveller,

J. B. LAWRENCE.

14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Mar. 14. 1920

ORACLES OF THE OFFICE

I

Your best Security is "U. S."

No Man can sidetrack the Truth.

One's Value to the World lies mainly in What one Knows.

The quickest way to get out of the world is to neglect the daily news.

He makes the biggest mistake who believes he never makes any.

When in the wrong,—right out with it.

Giving wisely a dollar, you give two dollars.

Dirty talk is very bad advertising.

Don't go down to the other fellow; let him come up to you.

The things that a man speaks are the things he thinks: they are himself.

A bad man is not much worse than one who is good for nothing.

The best policy of insurance is Honesty.

II

Every man hates a liar, but the liar himself.

Impudence is more tolerable than deceit.

Politeness is easy sincerity.

A hog knows no gentleman.

Goliath boasted, while David got the stone in place.

A brook was never known to stop a river.

"Kind words can never die," but sometimes harsh words are wonderfully stimulating.

The really generous never miss the things they bestow.

In mere getting we receive our meanest satisfactions.

An ounce of care is worth a pound of repair.

Potatoes will not grow on bushes; only the lazy man wishes they would.

Whenever a man swears, get him the dictionary,—he may find a better word.

A fellow asked a quarter for his dinner; he got the dinner, not the quarter.

III

The most familiar enemy of mankind is a liar.

The man who wants to go to the Devil, will find an open road.

It is often sanest as well as safest to give a runaway horse the highway.

Chew well before swallowing; you are often handed stuff hard to digest.

He who keeps on good terms with himself, can make best terms with his fellow.

It takes a mechanic to run a machine; but any darned fool can sand the bearings.

Most of the best things ever spoken are said by books.

With a good safety-valve, a boiler can not be "busted."

You will never quarrel with a woman if you give her the right-of-way.

When two fools get fighting, let them kill each other; there will be enough left.

The best talk victory is won by letting the other fellow's clock run down.

IV

It is strange how many good, honest men there are in jail.

The first person to suspect any man is the man himself.

No one can do wrong without first lying to himself.

A man who "tailed" his class heads his profession. No explanations explain.

One of the men I best remember and most like, is the professor who "let me through."

Whatever the "kid" likes, the goat likes, too.

If mother and the currant bushes hold out, the result will be a good man.

How long will it take a crooked lad to become a straight man?

A man who once sells himself is forever sold.

How fair the far-off country seems.

So long as all is still, there will be plenty of whiskey.

V

The most temperate men are in the cemetery.

Many consciences are like rubber,—you can't make an impression remain.

Because Judas was a scoundrel, is no reason for accusing the other eleven of rascality.

It is better, with our faults, to tackle something, than to hold off because we are faultful.

A good man is not one who never did anything bad; he is a man who does many things bad trying to do something good.

The best way to stop a dog's bark is to give him a bone. It may choke him.

Never try to get the half cent. It is an impossibility.

He who is not happy each day, can never hope to be happy at all.

How can one think that all good things and the best times are in the past? What of to-day, and to-morrow?

A stingy man is most unlike the Maker of himself and the sun.

VI

Blessed is the man who has forgotten the thousand good things he has done. For, in so doing he clears the ground for a thousand acts yet to be performed.

The meanest skunk you ever met, did not come up out of the ground.

Of all the men I have heard sent to hell, I should say a good proportion went there.

He is wise, indeed, who knows when not to tell the truth, and never to lie.

Read *Puck* or *Life*; they will take the pucker out of life.

The best way to hate a man is, to treat him fine.

Would you have a good enemy,—make your friend “an accommodation loan.”

A “square deal” is the only kind of deal that will never find you out.

The man who is afraid of a good woman is a friend of the devil.

If son is not bright, give him some burnishing.

The best thing for worry is perspiration.

VII

A whole lot of common folks have great thoughts,
but it is too bad they come still-born.

Thousands of men will tell you of hundreds of
inventions that should be brought out.

A farmer with a hoe was smoking, but it was not
the hoe that was hot.

I lent a fellow a dollar, and he never knew me
since. He evidently regarded the loan as a crime,

I have seen a lot of zeal that had the kick of a
mule. I refer to the beast's last kick.

Who is he that never missed an opportunity?
But the wise one grabbed his second chance.

I said to my electrician, "turn on the juice"—
and he spat.

A cloudy day is the best test of sunshine in the
heart.

A lot of us, like the drowning man, come three
times to the top. We ought to keep coming.

VIII

That is a most remarkable baby. "In what respect?" Why, in respect of his voice.

One of the most impossible things a fellow runs into late Saturday night is the keyhole.

A match is a small thing, but often it is as useful as the moon.

A dog beats all other friends; he'll hang around even if you do beat him.

Woman was taken from man because she was a troublesome rib.

The groucher is a person who dotes on the blunders which he thinks other people make.

Did ever you hear of a man dying of the earache? It is a wonder you didn't.

Most trouble of the stomach begins at the plate. It is naturally a well behaved member.

There are a lot of fellows who don't give themselves a "square deal."

Every person should see, at least, one funny thing each day of his life.

IX

There once was a bull who tried to run a train off the track. Some other people tackle about such a job as this.

It is a great accomplishment to be able to take one's own measure. It's easy to get the other fellow's.

I once went on a man's "Note." The man died, but the "Note" still lives. It's lucky that I am alive, too.

The strongest advice I ever got on the subject of drinking liquor, was given by my father, who never said anything about it. He merely "did without it."

The teacher who booted a student downstairs made a powerful impression, but not a favorable one.

Brutality never developed a mind.

I once saw a woman frighten a mouse by trying to jump up into a chair.

A neighbor, an old man, met an automobile "head on." The machine was never heard of after, but the old man was; it was his last complaint.

How ungrateful are they who do us wrong.

X

Two halves make a whole; but two wrongs do not make a right.

A friend went fishing the other day: when he came home he brought a string of lies.

Jones went down to Florida to spend a pleasant winter. It was a "cold day" for him. The thermometer ran to 119 degrees, the red bugs and jiggers got him, the mosquitoes tapped him and scorpions bit him. He wished himself home but didn't dare make the change.

Sometimes our neighbor knows we are "well off," even if we don't ourselves. It might be well, sometimes, to consult him.

The strongest ox makes the poorest eating.

Flies are useful for punishing the sinner who would fall asleep in meeting.

Flies also are useful for determining whether profanity lurks anywhere within the recesses of the mind.

One does hate to be "bossed." But he has the consolation that he don't "have to mind."

XI

There is an awful lot of wasted wit.

Is it not lovely, that the eye never quarrels with the ear?

If a man breaks his back over one stone how can he hope to clear his field?

When two roosters like to fight each other, do we tie their legs together?

Many of the smartest things are said by non-graduates.

Too many suckers on a tree are bad for the tree, and no good to themselves.

The bombast is always getting himself ready for an explosion.

The Devil still loves men—very still most of the time.

The man who hates, is the man who waits the wrath of the fates.

The King of Mischief has set up his throne on the earth.

XII

It's quality that counts; how much am I bid for a dozen bad eggs?

If the world ever is wrecked, it will be money that sends it to Davy Jones' famous locker.

What a world this would be if emulation of the good were its chief aim!

To justify injustice is rankest heresy, and social suicide.

Love of disorder and destruction is become an organic force in the earth.

"Cut out that Bond."

"About that see the Probate Court."

"I don't care a damn for the Court."

"I know that; but he does for you."

A husband was said to have broken his wife's heart. It was a lie. She fell from grace and broke it herself.

In arguing, neighbors should never raise their voices to the pitch of the felines on the back fence. It is disturbing.

XIII

Whenever you see a woman dragging out her husband by the covering of his scalp,—give way; the time for interference is not yet.

It is a good idea for one to do his thinking and repenting before the mischief is done.

Every man should have eight or ten good stories to tell,—and some coming.

A bad memory upsets all other assets.

The world's misery comes of false pleasure.

There are a whole lot of half-truths,—which half?

It is every way better to know one thing than to guess forty.

How many people would rather have ten thousand (\$10,000) honest dollars, than a million \$1,000,000 ill-gotten?

The poet sang, "Give me a man who sings at his work." He can have him.

"Madam, you are looking for a farm?"

"I am."

"Now, for what purpose do you want a farm?"

"Why,—to look at, of course."

There are others.

XIV

The song of the hoe, now, is—

“Clip; clip; clip.”

Clip what?—Coupons.

He who thinks it a crime to smile is a grave-digger.

“The pen ain’t mightier than the sword. While you are trying to stick a pen in me, I can cut off your head.”

The reason women wear high heels is, to enable them so to cripple their feet that they may walk genteelly.—Same, Chinees.

“I don’t see why that young man carries a cane.”

“It is the best he can do.”

Why don’t we educate men to be laughmakers?

A wise father maketh a glad son. Thus is Scripture reversed.

While travelling one should never forget that he is the tipper and the porter the tippee.

XV

What kind of a world would this be if all men were sages?

I advised the proprietor not to throw me out of the office, as I observed he had weak eyes, for which I did not wish to be further responsible. He smiled, and gave me a big order.

"Did you give me your ticket?" inquired the conductor.

"Sure. Did you take it as a loan?"

"Catherine Street!"—shouted the brakeman.

"Present," murmured an elderly woman near the front door.

Honesty as a principle beats honesty as a policy.

Always read the "funnyman"—behind his so-called "jokes."

When called a "fool," give your maligner ample opportunity to repent and recall, before you leave.

Never give back an adversary what he expects. The jar of a surprise or disappointment will better serve your purpose.

XVI

Often have I admired the courage of the man who raised two families of children. But, I must say—that I should say nothing further.

Could a man but escape from himself, he might have some excuse for wrong-doing.

One good word for the starling. When other birds forsake us he stays the winter through.

How kind of the promoter, to let us in on "the ground floor." But look out for the sub-cellar.

Many people have choked over the Jonah story, who never had a thought of the great choke that the fish gave the rebellious prophet.

Would it not be a good thing if we had more kosher language?

I lost the bucket down the well the other day. Wife inquired: "Why did you let the bucket go down the well?" "Because," said I, "it would not go any other way."

XVII

The Bible never was written to tell us that all men of the olden time were good.

There are some dogs, that ought to be taken to some schools, to teach some children how to behave.

Who taught the cock to crow?
He was born with the crow in his throat.

How do I know the egg made the hen lay?
Because no egg could not cause her to produce one.

Never beat a horse because he can't pull the load.
Beat the driver.

A boy should be respected, if it is intended he should be a respectable man.

After the "Honest Junkman" has jingled his cow-bells in this country for about three years, he changes his sign to plain "Junkman,"—the rest is understood,—not.

She died of exhaustion,—my cat. The hole she watched so assiduously was ratless.

XVIII

Who ever "saw the point?"

A point is a nothingness at which all angulations meet.

There was a man in our town who was "about to be married" for twenty-six years.

It is about as difficult for a man to "sit tight," as it is for a dog to squat on the stubble.

Until one becomes learned, he cannot realize that men were so bad in Shakespeare's time.

Never tell a boy not to be afraid of thunder, when you are scared stiff. Say, rather, "Come on, let's be scared together."

Two things were never made to be taken hold of;—A red-hot poker, and a cow's tail.

The great law-giver of the world was Moses. But it has taken several thousand years to get his laws passed about the globe; and it will take thousands yet to get them in good working order.

XIX

There are plenty of men who will sacrifice everybody and everything for "business."

It is as difficult to keep children's fingers out of the sugar as to keep the rats out of the corn.

Our main bulwark against all kinds of propaganda is liberal education.

The mind should be constructed not only to accomplish, but also to resist.

There is no sense of any kind that will take the place of common sense.

A broken down broker is advised by his doctor to buy a farm and rusticate. He does so, and so also does the farm.

He who said "War is Hell," simply did not know what Hell is.

When one boasts of his ancestors, he should remember they are dead, unknown and incapable of defending themselves.

XX

A man's relation to his Maker, no institution can control.

If the Infidel says he is happy: so let him be.

He is not a wise man, who would navigate the seas alone.

After his experience with the whale, Jonah went ahead and did his duty. Had he done it beforehand, he never would have met the great fish as he did.

Grandfathers are advised to watch their pride on advent of grandson No. 1.

It is rough treatment to throw a fellow overboard; but it is the best and quickest way to teach him to swim.

A most noble earthly blessing is the disposition and ability to pay one's debts.

The world is run too much on isolated notions.

If every man went to church, would the world be any worse for it?

XXI

It is an awful drop from millionaire to simple air.

It is up-hill where the work comes in. A barrel will go down hill all right.

It's all right to fly; but it is a ticklish job to keep flying.

I have known a number of young men who started to be accountants; but the last I heard of most of them, they had stopped, and become of little account.

Were I called upon to give young men a tip to success, I should address them upon the theme—**STICK.**

The boy needs a man to maul him.

Man needs a boy to appeal to his wisdom and affection. Help a lad.

Prison is the place to teach men the true philosophy of life. There is no escape from it.

It is better to be on the bench than in the chair. Who would not exchange with the Judge?

XXII

"Once I was young, but now am old," said an ancient prophet. This is to be expected, until time goes over backwards.

Speaking of old age; I know a nonogenarian who is "some boy." He has not yet discovered that he is aged.

"Which is the best typewriter?" asked an acquaintance of me.

"Which is the best woman?" I replied.

"It's the one you like best," said he.

"That's it precisely."

Men may pour some of true religion in their little bottles; but it will not long stay corked.

All weapons should be eliminated from civilization. It cannot be cut or shot into proper form.

Schemes can't save the world. If it ever is saved, moral principle will have done the work.

Every man should be a part of some great moral movement.

XXIII

The biggest man I ever saw was in the circus.
But he was small outside the tent.

"Be not wise in your own conceits," remarked
the seer. Because when anchored in those narrow
waters there is danger the ship will ground.

A Jury for sympathy; a Judge for justice.

Law for the lawyer; opinion for the layman.

A Mayor of a city is one who May—or may not
know how to run a town. Thus the name.

It is better to work to get the money, than to
wait to receive it.

I know a harbor so narrow a large steamer cannot
turn in its waters. The suggestion is, "shorten the
boat."

One way to save money is,—go without eating.

When one goes into the "servant" business, he
should ever bear in mind that the servant is mistress
of the house.

XXIV

No one ever should fear the Bible. It belongs to everybody, and contains a whole lot of common sense.

Brimstone is said to be a cure for rheumatism. Such being the case, a good many people may expect to be relieved of it later.

It is a wonder that the Rain-Sender does not give some faultfinders a good dose of drought.

If Adam had had a choice in the case, doubtless he would have preferred to be the last man of the race, instead of the first.

Repentance is good, but it is better to quit and restore.

I can yet hear the voice of a certain schoolmaster, who, like John Brown, has long since mouldered in his grave. It was some voice, believe me.

If George Washington cut down a cherry tree, it was probably a very small one, and a fruitless. George knew what tree to chop, without any doubt.

XXV

We have many thinkings that seem to us wonderfully wise, which, when spread upon paper, look astonishingly foolish.

"Dat ass dat Sampson chased the Philistines wid, must have had a most pow'ful jaw to have chewed up ten thousand men."

"Who am de first lady-ob-de-lan?
An easy one.—Mistress Eve Adam, ob course."

There are mines and mines of most useful and needed supplies for man in the heavens above and beneath us.

"Yes, gap to the satisfaction of your soul. It is wondrously refreshing, when there's no one about to gape down one's throat."

"Yas, dem German fellows chase me right into my burrow." "What burrow?" "Why, de rabbit hole." "Why, how did you get into a rabbit hole?" "How? Why, you should see me go,— Wid dose Dutchmen after me, I didn't stop to consider de size ob de hole,—I just went right in."

XXVI

Where is one going, to hide himself from his own conscience?

I once was asked what I thought of Noah and his animals. I replied that, as it was the first and biggest circus to take so long a voyage, I thought it came out in pretty good shape.

He asked me further, if I believed the ark rested on Ararat. I answered, "Nary a rat, all saved."

The old world needs not so much "smart" men as responsible men.

The prodigal son had one good sense left;—the sense to go home to his father.

One's best view of himself is gotten not in the mirror. Listen to your friends.

"I have the best wife in the world."

Say, if every husband would tell his wife the same thing, there would be a lot of happy wives the world around.

If what one believes does not effect what one does, then, what does it effect?

XXVII

In former times men paid for their church seats. Later the seats were given them. Now, they cannot even be given away.

"Do you make any trades on Sunday?"

"Yes. Every Sunday I try to trade off some of my faults for some virtues."

A partnership is all right while both ends of the ship sail in the same direction.

No money can make a man, and no money can break him.

If life continues as it ends, almost any man may foresee his own future.

Two things no thief can steal,—education and character.

How often would we prefer willing things to getting right out and doing them.

I looked with wonder to see the farmer extract the lacteal fluid from his herd,—until, with a sudden stream in the eye, my wonder faded away.

Every town, now, should have a temperance saloon, to which the men of the municipality may resort in order to get "corned" sober.

XXVIII

Charity begins in the heart. But if it gets no further putrefaction soon sets in.

There is a way to save every sinking man; and it is up to us to find that way.

Because a fellow is down, why let him stay down? If one can't lit him, get two.

Who says the world is coming to an end? It is always coming to one end, and striking out for another end.

"Do you remember seeing that pumpkin at the Fair last year?" "No, I do not recall the particular pumpkin at the Fair, but I do recollect the Fair all around the pumpkin."

There is one great disadvantage in learning how to wash the dishes. After one has become familiar with the art, he finds that it "breeds contempt."

The romance of a run-away marriage lies to a very small degree in the "run-away" part of it. The main show will speedily follow, and will be a continuous performance.

XXIX

"Mamma, why do you punish me?"

"Because your papa is not home to do it."

"But he comes home. I don't think that is the reason."

"Well, what is it?"

"Why, you get excited."

Don't despise the rut. A good many people would better get into one.

The man who minds his own business never gets blackmailed.

One way to escape temptation is, to run.

The world is full of mischief. He who seeks will find it, easy.

Never did I believe much in luck; I never had any.

We have six or seven thermometers in our house, but they are no good. Mother is our thermometer.

XXX

"Did you ever pass through Hell Gate?"

"Not yet."

Doing wrong is always preceded by thinking wrong.

How handy it is to have a wife who claims her husband does not know how to make a fire.

Wild horses cannot be caught with sweet words.

There is a man who claims to believe, that when he dies, all there is of him will "go to dirt," just like all animals. I would not dispute it.

A flock of crows went over into a field the other day. The neighbors said, "Spring is coming." But I noticed that the old dead horse was going.

My neighbor came back from the South yesterday,—that is, all of him but about twenty-five pounds.

"Did you ever read the Black Cat?" I read one cat a few nights ago for about an hour, but I could not tell the color of it.

XXXI

Some people are so stubborn that a mule should recognize them as his brothers.

Did ever you buy copper or oil stocks to take care of you in old age? Then you must know what a devilish fool I am.

"What do you go to church for?"

"I don't go *for*: I go *because*."

"Because what?"

"Because it is too noisy at home."

"Sam, do you believe in loving your enemies?"

"I does, sah,—after I gets square wi' 'em."

Curiosity has brought much good, and no little evil to the world.

It is a pity the millionaire who left his money to oppose religion did not know more of human nature, and the purchasing limits of wealth.

Knowledge without wisdom is ever a menace.

If we don't stop punishing big criminals too little, and small criminals too severely, the injustice of the thing will make an effective boomerang for the socialist of the nitroglycerine stamp.

XXXII

Why cannot practitioners of the high finance school see what they are bringing themselves and their country to?

If every person banked all his spare money what would become of our homes, and his?

Advice should be sparingly given. If it succeeds you get no thanks; if it fails you get "cussed."

The best way to get and keep friends is never to really need them.

I never knew but one Man who would stand close inspection. Almost everybody knows Him.

The article with which we comb over our fellow-men should be a coarse one.

It does not seem possible that so small a thing as a mite on a hen's legs would stop her from laying. The littles must be watched.

Never tell a friend you will give him a "square deal." If he does not know it on the start, he will find it out later.

XXXIII

Never be afraid of a little "scrap."
The sun shines brighter after a storm.

A learned professor traveled to far-off Africa to study monkeys. Why should he have neglected the home field?

We might as well expect all men to look alike, as to believe alike.

There are a goodly number of plain, average people who have a fine time pilgrimaging through the earth.

Three fellows make most agreeable traveling companions: Yourself, your sub-conscious self and your super-self.

I know a sound old man of seventy years, who will not go to the "movies" for fear they will "spring something on him."

Why do good people quarrel?
Because they are too severely good.

"Do you know that I have the rheumatism so bad that I can hardly move my legs?"
Then wiggle your toes.

XXXIV

"Oh, don't be afraid of a harmless bulldog," said I. "He won't bite you."

"Let me tell you," said he; "I don't mind a bulldog's bite. The trouble with these damn dogs is that they ain't got sense enough to let go."

Not all doctors are quacks; but all ducks are.

The business game is the creation of debtors with quick assets.

Remember, that an empty pocketbook is no temptation to a lawyer.

"Do you know where I can get a good, safe dog?"

"Not to-day. But I have decided to make mine safe to-morrow."

It's grand to see a great soul give way to a small, inconsequential pup.

Where do some folks find wind enough to swell themselves to so vast proportions?

There is no way on earth to make chickens lay. They have got to be coaxed.

It's awfully hard to please some people, but it is fine exercise to try.

XXXV

The further away from a million one keeps, the safer his life will be.

"I wish I were dead."

"Do you wish me to say—'Amen'?"

Are colleges for the purpose of making men, or tinkers?

If it is necessary to say "damn," keep the voice low.

Have we surely the right "dope" on the main issue of life?

"Who's Who in America?"

In America, we all are WHO.

"Mamie, aren't you afraid of the bees?"

"Oh, no. They never sting me. Only, one day a little fellow dropped a bit of red-hot honey on my finger."

"How did your onions pan out this year?"

"Didn't pan out at all—barreled out."

When a college professor "flunks" a student, he should remember that that same student will probably meet him some later day.

XXXVI

A poor student and scholar bucked forty cords of wood, one winter. Thirty-five years later the doctor was the best beloved and most mourned citizen in a County. Buck wood.

"What is your objection to onions?"

"The smell."

"I thought you had lost your sense of smell."

"My friend, I could smell onions if I were dead."

"Well, father, I'm twenty-one to-day, but failed to win the watch."

"But here is the watch, my boy. I present it to you, not as a reward for letting tobacco alone, but as a reminder that you failed to control your lust for the weed."

"I met Taft one day in Washington."

"Is that so? What did he say to you?"

"Oh, he didn't say anything to me,—my wife was with me."

If the three million citizens of Chicago are as windy as the seatmate on my trip from that city to St. Louis, I can easily understand why Chicago is called "The Windy City."

XXXVII

"Where did the Winter go to this last year?"

"It did not 'go to'; it *stayed at*."

They say that deacon Goodman is a fine Sunday-school teacher. I wish he would hand us out some of that stuff the other six days of the week.

I never believed in sending a lad about Wall Street, with \$40,000 to \$50,000, to be knocked down and robbed.

Are we ever coming back to the "good old times?" Never. We are going on to the better new times.

"Sam, tell me why de chil'en Isra'l gowed through de Red Sea on dry lan'."

"Dem chil'en gowed along on dry lan' to keep their feet from gettin' wet."

"Why did de Lo'd overwhelm de Egypt'ans in de ribber?"

"Dat's easy. It was to stop de Egypt'ans overwhelm' His people."

It's better to be a plain, ordinary fellow, than to strain extraordinarily hard to be "original."

A bright light is likely to draw the bugs and mosquitoes.

XXXVIII

Are men yet descended from monkeys; and do the fittest still survive?

A sacred office cannot long conceal a rogue.

Virtue lurks not long about vice.

Down in New York they are just starting a "Sleeping Sickness." Let's go down and get into it; a little vacation will chirp us up.

Justice is not something a man hands his fellows. It is a passion agonizing within him for liberation.

"Am I in favor of rum? Yes and no. Me stomach is in favor, but me sinse is agin it."

"What a strange thing sleep is?"
Not to me; we are best friends.

When that agent of a certain magni-millionaire called on me the other day, I felt like Jonah when he faced the whale.

"How was that?"

Why, just as if I was going to be swallowed up.
"You was."

XXXIX

What is your favorite flower?

"De flour what makes buckwheat cakes."

"Did you buy that oil stock?"

"Naw. I hain't got no mo' room fo' it in my pigeonholes."

"A penny for your thoughts."

Too cheap. Can't you raise the ante?

The smallest lie is as big as the universe.

Every worker should keep a watchful eye on his speed.

Were one worth a million, how would he be bothered with the zeal of his own sleuths.

No slang should be tolerated until it has gone through the laundry.

So live that it can make no difference when or where you awake.

A duty that is too insignificant to do well should be dropped before undertaken.

It is hard to refrain from scandalmongering; but it is one of the best hard jobs a fellow ever tackled.

XL

Never lay up a grudge.
It's not worth preserving.

Stop, and have a good "think" with yourself. He is one you should know.

The longer another's money stays in your hand the longer it is likely to.

One man gives his life for his country, another his advice.

I don't dislike so much the burglar that gets into the house at night and takes my money from my pants pocket, as that guy that comes into my office and, with his pretty story, beguiles me into handing it out to him with my own right hand.

My grandfather is said to have once knocked down a contrary ox. Therefore, according to law of heredity, I should likewise feel prone to follow a similar impulse.

For purity sunlight is better than moonlight.

Why did Johnson permit Willard to whip him?
In order to justify the power and skill of his antagonist.

Do I want to make a fortune? No. It is altogether too strenuous a job.

XLI

I suppose you like vaudeville?

"Nein."

What's that, Deutsch?

"No. A numeral."

"John, what are you doing upstairs?"

"Waiting for you to come up and spy on me."

"How many eggs should I get out of a couple dozen hens?"

None. They will do their own laying.

"My dear I wish you would get me a car."

I don't think it would do you any good.

"Why not?"

Because you would not be satisfied with even a whole train.

If one cannot be happy with what one has, how could he be happy with what he has not?

The peacock is a good looker; but, oh, the voice of it?

Business is not altogether trotting about.

The fly-wheel started all right; but when it stopped some of it lay in a field two miles away.

XLII

"Did you ever try to drive an automobile without gas?"

"Say, did you ever try to drive a harness without a horse?"

"Did you know Mark Twain?"

"No man on earth ever knew him. He was simply unfathomable."

One of the most difficult and dangerous things mortals do is, making a safe landing.

The author threw off his pages with marvelous dexterity and never stopped, until the firemen dragged him out of his study.

"Time, wind and tide wait for no man."

A few days ago they took Bill Saunders peremptorily ashore and landed him about twenty-five feet up on the beach.

"How will the new liquor law work?"

It won't work at all. But it may be worked.

"Mike have you filed your inventory?"

"Naw, naw, not yit; I'm goin' to get a new file. And the inventory,—whose patent is that?"

XLIII

"D'ye know that the Irishman has no wit?"

"What has he then?"

"He has the daambdest good luck in making happy blunders."

They say that the Englishman can't see through a joke. Right. He can't even see around one.

The love of the dog will shame the affection of many a son and daughter.

The anarchist should be segregated from everything but his own doctrines.

Bolshivete the Bolshivist. Similia similibus curantur.

The dancer always hates the approach of morning.

How hard to stop the whirl of a strenuous day.

A good story has driven slumber from many heavy eyelids.

"Let this thing cease stopping," said a freshman to his tormentors. "I could never stop that way."

The "ceasing" business never appealed to me. In this universe of "GO," where is the proper stopping place? So pens keep pace with moving things.

XLIV

How big a tree is necessary to produce so small a nut?

A single aphid can do no harm; nor can one cootie eat a man up.

Borrow a neighbor's grindstone, and prepare to lend him your lawnmower.

By mistake the thief got one cent and five years. With "malice aforethought" the treasurer took \$100,000 and three years.

He is an impertinent individual who dares to spring a pun on the name of his friend.

Remember that, while women want all the rights of men, they want a lot of rights which the rougher sex does not enjoy.

When will the Christian sects get together? When they get enough Christianity.

How a habit will behave when it gets us, who has ever been able to foretell?

XLV

No man should be permitted to "spout" in public, who has not provided himself with the permit which citizenship procures—or a special license.

There are two times when all men are poor.

No sea is too rough for the brave navigator.

It is the inequalities of the world that make living interesting.

If you try to stop a thief, he may become a burglar; let him steal. If you try to stop the burglar, he may become a counterfeiter; let him "break and enter." Try to prevent counterfeiting, and you may make a forger; let counterfeiting go on. Try to break the drink habit, and the morphine habit may take its place; therefore, let the liquor habit take its course.

There was never a storm that did not give place to sunshine.

The doctor gave some pills and sent me to bed. I bought a cord of wood, and retired to the back yard.

XLVI

Why, for a few dollars, a few days, a few delights, do men give their souls away?

"Do you know Senator Blank?"

"No Senator Blank in particular. I know a number of Senators Blank."

"Bill, you are an ass."

"Josh, you are a mule."

"Yes? Do you know that the mule can kick the slats out of an ass?"

"I do dislike the study of psychology, there is too much guesswork about it. Phrenology suits me better,—you can see the bumps."

"They tell me I should read a book to become 'Manager'; what do you think?"

"In my opinion you'd stand a better chance if you brushed your teeth."

Did you know that if you had faith enough you could move that mountain?

"Oh, the mountain is all right. What I want to be rid of is that pile of rubbish in the back yard."

XLVII

"Did you know that palmistry was a science?"

"No."

"Well, it is. It is the science of damfoolery."

Sam, do you believe saints can be made?

"No, Marse Ned; no saints can be made. Saints is."

"Mr. Millionaire, do you know that, when you die, you can't take that million with you?"

"I can take my million just as sure as you can take your fifty cents."

"Ma boy, what mak' you so lazy? 'Member de motto, 'Nebber procrastinate to-day, what y' can pos'pone to-morrow!'"

Do you ever feel like a blamed fool?

"Yes, I occasionally take a whole day off to feel so."

One who wishes to retain his friends, should never impose upon them. (Special reference to auto rides.)

What did you think of the sermon Sunday?

"If Si' Judkins had heard it, I think it might ha' done him a world of good."

XLVIII

My son, can you give me the present, active, infinitive of *amare*?

"I could, dad, if I was not so blamed worn out."

If some people are not converted over again, they will surely get inverted into the hole to which they are fast slipping.

Who said the wicked were burned up?
Oh, if we could get rid of it that way.

A pretty sure way to get prosperity is, to go after it.

Don't be afraid of yourself, and the devil himself can't scare you.

"How do you stop a pup from howling?"

"I beswitched if I know how."

"Well, if you beswitch the pup, you will learn the secret."

"What do you do when your mind goes blank?"

"I go blank, too."

XLIX

We should keep remembering the very ancient law that Order comes out of Chaos.

What has become of the high and mighty "goose-step?"

"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

One of the happiest experiences of life is, watching a fellow walk in the right road,—which we have pointed out to him.

Whose ancestors once climbed trees, and swung from one to another with their prehensile appendage?

Those high and mighty ones who strut about the earth on their attenuated legs, have no place either with the gods, or amongst men.

I like the sense of indebtedness to some great inspiring mind that makes me feel he is my elder brother.

To him whose day has been well spent, twilight is no less beautiful than the dawn.

How long his sleep may be, who cares, so it be sweetly peaceful?

No clouds put out the stars to him who lives above them.

L

No one should be downhearted because of his mediocrity. It is a thing one may have a real good time with, with a little practice.

There are two wills with which to meet danger. First is the will to run. Second is the will to fight.

Had Othello lived in these days, think you he had been able to smother Desdemona?

A good many things one thinks and knows were better never told.

"Show me," demanded the man from the Ozarks. "Sir, my menagerie is composed of animals more interesting."

"Well, the spring has come."

"Why, when did you send for it?"

"I think it was about the first of January."

"My friend, did you ever try raising pigs?"

"Oh, no; I am a teacher."

"Is that so? I am a college professor."

There is one reason I should enjoy being rich. It is the fun I would have impoverishing myself.

LI

"Who was the strongest man?"

"Samson; he got caught in a woman's toils and broke away."

It has been said that Solomon was the wisest of men. But I don't believe it. No man of sense would ever have a thousand wives.

"Who will be our next President?"

"Do you mean, what woman?"

"When women come into power, what will become of the 'dominant sex'?"

When women come into power there won't be any "dominant sex."

When thinking of your food, stop a minute to recall the feeder.

I have been to Court and tried to tell "the truth, the whole truth,——" but, they wouldn't let me.

Who in the household awaits the coming of the master more eagerly than his dog?

"Why did you decide to be a lawyer?"

To escape becoming a client.

LII

Names of many things have lately appeared in new dress; but the things themselves are as ancient as the mountains.

The sociological value of the old fashioned and out of fashion town clock, some bright mind should carefully calculate.

Many a smile hath a pain beneath it, and some momentary pleasure behind it.

Why is it so terrible a disgrace in these days to appear to be a grandmother?

The other day I heard some one say,—“He is a damned good fellow.”

I fear that many a “good fellow” suffers a similar fate.

No man ever will climb very high, who is obsessed with fear of falling.

For a change, I wish some minister of the Gospel would call around at my office and give me a good religious “talking to.”

“What should one do when his resources fail him?”

“He should go back to his original sources.”

LIII

Every one of us is on a long and perilous journey through space and time; and I know not why we should be less careful to plot our course and guard against mishap, than the aviator bound three thousand miles over fathomless waters.

"Were you at the ball last night?"

"Oh, yes; I was surely at the bawl."

"What do you mean?"

"Mean? Why, colic."

Boy: "I am looking for a job in an office."

Man: "What have you worked at?"

Boy: "At 'lasting'."

Man: "At 'lasting'?—just the boy I have been looking for. You're hired."

"Which would you rather do, go to the top of the sky, or to the bottom of the sea?"

"I prefer going to the bottom of the sky."

"How can one head hold so many things?"

"There are several ways."

"Do you see my thimble?" said his wife.

"Yes, plainly."

"Where?"

"In my mind's eye."

LIV

The end of all things is always to-morrow.
Each evening our work is left incomplete.
Morning by morning we undertake to complete it.
The story is never quite ended. A sequel always
remains unwritten.

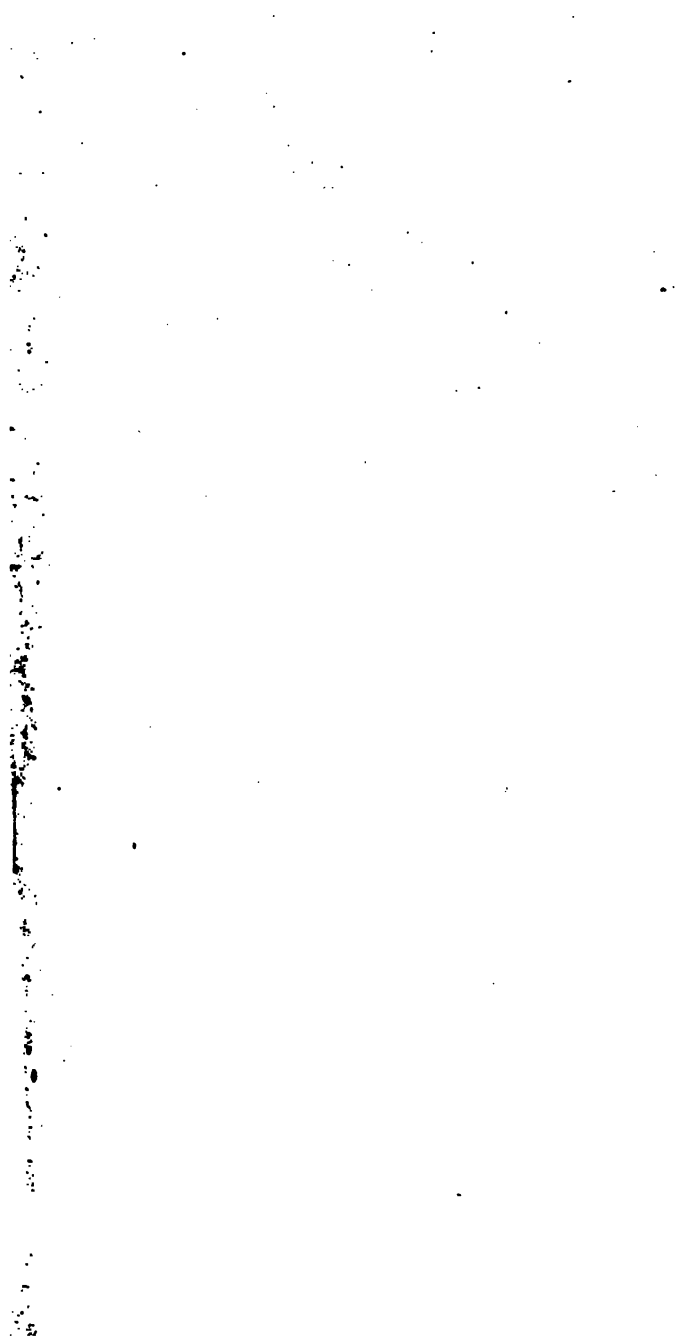
After the tale is all told, the reader still carries
on the unwritten drama, wishing he were able to
add the finishing touch. But he cannot. Who can?

Thus, life's uncompleted story goes on through
time-measured spaces, into the spaceless and tire-
less regions of infinitude.

The joy of living, of toiling, of wearying, of
resting is—*To-morrow's Duty-Call.*







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